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THE
DAY
OF
THE

KRYPTON **PART VI** MAN

by STERN,
PEREZ,
GAMMILL &
BREEDING



SUPERMAN

Created by
JERRY SEIBEL &
JOE SHUSTER

THE LAST TIME JONATHAN KENT
CAME TO METROPOLIS, THE CITY
HAD JUST BUILT A SHINING NEW
BUS TERMINAL IN THE HEART OF
THE CITY.

THE TERMINAL IS STILL THERE,
BUT THE SHINE HAS DIMMED...
AND THE HEART HAS CLEARLY
MOVED.

TERMINAL

METROPOLIS

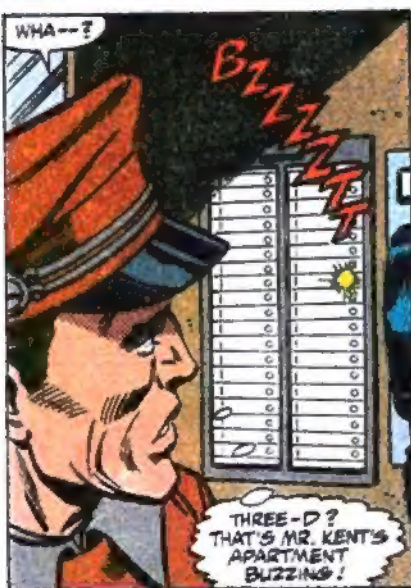
NO
PARKING
ANY TIME

OH, MY
LANDS--!

WAYWARD SON

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GEORGE PEREZ, KERRY GANNILL & BRETT BREEDING
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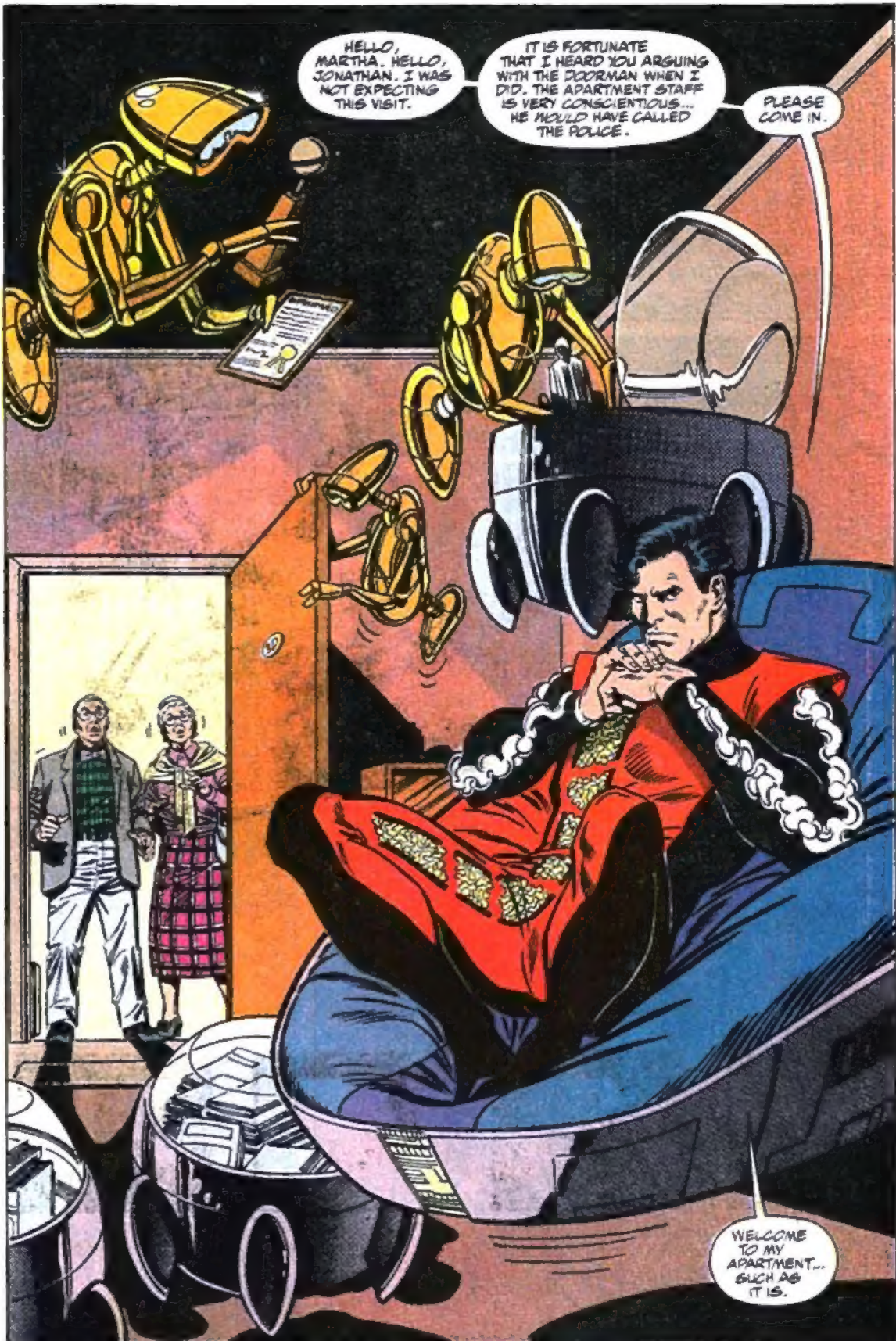




HELLO, MARTHA. HELLO, JONATHAN. I WAS NOT EXPECTING THIS VISIT.

IT IS FORTUNATE THAT I HEARD YOU ARGUING WITH THE DOORMAN WHEN I DID. THE APARTMENT STAFF IS VERY CONSCIENTIOUS... HE WOULD HAVE CALLED THE POLICE.

PLEASE COME IN.



WELCOME TO MY APARTMENT... SUCH AS IT IS.



GLORY BE...

...IT'S LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF THRILLING WONDER STORIES!

CLARK, WH-WHAT ARE THOSE THINGS? WHAT'RE THEY DOING?

THEY'RE ROBOTS, MARTHA... I THINK.



CORRECT, JONATHAN. THEY ARE INDEED ROBOTS... AND I SHOULD THINK THEIR ACTIONS OBVIOUS.

BUT I SEE THAT YOU WISH A STATEMENT FROM ME... VERY WELL. THEY ARE PACKING MY BELONGINGS FOR TRANSPORT TO MY NEW HOME IN THE ANTARCTIC.



ANTARCTIC ?!?

WHAT IS GOING ON AROUND HERE ?! I CAN SEE HOW LIVING IN THIS CITY COULD DRIVE A MAN LOCO-- BUT, FOR PETE'S SAKE, YOU'RE SUPERMAN!

I WAS SUPERMAN, JONATHAN. NOW I AM KAL-EL.

IS THAT SO? WELL, MR. "EL," LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING--



"-- THANKS TO THE SATELLITE DISH YOU GAVE US LAST CHRISTMAS, YOUR MA AND I SAW MOST OF THE DUST-UP YOU HAD ON THE MOON WITH THAT BIG UGLY CUSS."

"HASTIEST FIGHT I EVER DID SEE! YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE FIXING TO DO THAT FELLA IN--"

"-- WHEN THE PICTURE FELL APART! WE WERE WORRIED HALF TO DEATH! BUT WHEN WE GOT YOU ON THE PHONE LATER, YOU MUNG UP ON US!"

YOU'VE BEEN ACTING MIGHTY PECULIAR, SON. WE WANT TO KNOW WHY!

* IN SUPERMAN #42 AND ADVENTURES #465... STILL ON SALE!

YES, YOU'VE BEEN SO DIFFERENT ON THE PHONE, AND NOW--! WHAT IS THE MATTER? WHY DO YOU KEEP CALLING US BY OUR FIRST NAMES?

WOULD YOU PREFER TO BE ADDRESSED AS MR. AND MRS. KENT?

CLARK, PLEASE, WE'RE YOUR PARENTS!



I AM NOT CLARK KENT, I AM KAL-EL. AND ALTHOUGH YOU RAISED ME, YOU ARE NOT MY PARENTS.

WE... WE STILL WANT TO HELP YOU, IF WE CAN. WHAT HAPPENED UP THERE ON THE MOON? THE CREATURE YOU FOUGHT... DID YOU... KILL HIM?

I DID NOT. MY FRIEND PROFESSOR HAMILTON TELEPORTED ME BACK TO EARTH BEFORE I COULD DELIVER THE KILLING BLOW. NO DOUBT HIS TRANSPORT BEAM CAUSED THE TELEVISION INTERFERENCE.

YOU ACTUALLY INTENDED TO KILL HIM?



DRAAGA CHALLENGED ME TO MORTAL COMBAT. WOULD YOU HAVE PREFERRED THAT I PERISH?

WHAT A THING TO SAY! OF COURSE NOT!

IT'S JUST THAT... WELL, REMEMBER HOW UPSET YOU WERE AFTER YOU... EXECUTED THOSE THREE MURDEROUS SUPER-CRIMINALS?*



IT TOOK YOU FOREVER JUST TO COME TO TERMS WITH THAT.

*IN SUPERMAN #22.

TRUE. BUT AT THE TIME MY REASON WAS OVERWHELMED BY AN EXCESS OF MIS-PLACED SENTIMENT.



MISPLACED SENTIMENT?! I DON'T BELIEVE I'M HEARING THIS! YOU WERE THE ONE WHO SAID, "A SUPERMAN MUST NOT KILL."

WHAT HAS GOTTEN INTO YOU?!



I HAVE SIMPLY REACHED A STAGE IN MY LIFE WHERE I HAVE SHED THE EMOTIONAL COCOON OF HUMANITY--AND ADVANCED TO MY PROPER STATION IN LIFE AS A TRUE SON OF KRYPTON.

MY PRESENT ATTIRE IS A SYMBOL OF THAT STATION.

CLARK KENT'S EMPLOYMENT HAS BEEN TERMINATED... THE LEASE ON THIS APARTMENT WILL SOON LAPSE. SUPERMAN'S RESPONSIBILITIES CAN BE ASSUMED BY OTHERS.

I AM AT LAST FREE TO DISTANCE MYSELF FROM AN UNREASONING WORLD.

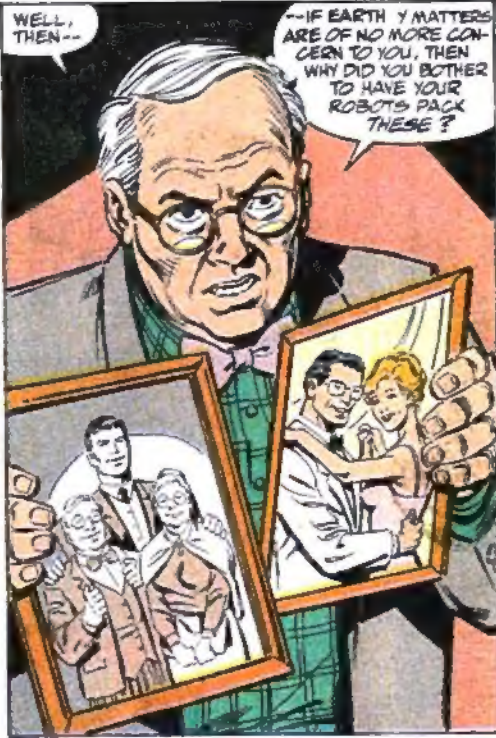




SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO HIM... SOMETHING HORRIBLE!

SO, YOU DON'T WANT TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH US LESSER MORTALS, IS THAT IT?

THAT IS AN ACCURATE CONCLUSION.



WELL, THEN--

--IF EARTH Y MATTERS ARE OF NO MORE CONCERN TO YOU, THEN WHY DID YOU BOTHER TO HAVE YOUR ROBOTS PACK THESE?



I...



LISTEN TO ME! DEEP DOWN, YOU'RE STILL OUR BOY! DEEP DOWN YOU STILL CARE... THIS PROVES IT!

DON'T TURN YOUR BACK ON US, CLARK... WE LOVE YOU!

YOU LOVE THE CHILD YOU REARED-- THAT IS ONLY TO BE EXPECTED OF YOUR SPECIES. BUT I AM NOT OF YOUR EARTH. I MUST FOLLOW A DIFFERENT COURSE. YOU MUST ACCEPT THAT.



GIVE US ONE GOOD REASON WHY!



VERY WELL...

ΔΔΩΖ!ΕΘΟ†

WHAT'S THAT GIBBERISH S'POSED TO MEAN?



THAT "GIBBERISH" IS KRYPTONESE. MY ROBOTS ARE PROGRAMMED TO RESPOND TO IT.

THEY WILL DEAL WITH YOU NOW...

SHORTLY, AT A CARIBBEAN TRACKING STATION ...

STILL NO SIGN OF THAT MISSING SHUTTLE?

NOT A TRACE! THAT SOLAR STORM MADE NASH OF... WAIT A MINUTE!

WHAT'VE YOU GOT?

I DON'T KNOW. IT'S NOT THE SHUTTLE-- THE CROSS-SECTIONS ALL WRONG!

IT'S HEADING SOUTH, FOLLOWING A MIGRATORY FLYPATH! BUT IT'S MOVING WAY TOO FAST TO BE A CLUSTER OF BIRDS... IT'S ALREADY GOING OFF SCREEN!

"WHAT THE DEVIL IS IT?"

I'M SEEING IT WITH MY OWN EYES, BUT I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT! WHAT'S HOLDING US TOGETHER?

AN ELECTRO-MAGNETIC FIELD, JONATHAN.

WE'RE ALREADY OVER THE ANTARCTIC... LOOKS JUST LIKE THE PICTURES IN THE GEOGRAPHIC... AND I'M STILL WARM AS TOAST!

AMAZING!

JONATHAN, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

NOT MUCH WE CAN DO, 'CEPT ENJOY THE VIEW... AND HOPE WE GET A CHANCE TO TALK SOME SENSE INTO THE BOY!

STILL CAN'T GET OVER HOW THOSE LITTLE ROBOTS WERE ABLE TO LINK TOGETHER... AND SO FAST!

THE ROBOTS ARE BUT A MINOR ASPECT OF KRYPTONIAN TECHNOLOGY, JONATHAN. THERE IS MUCH MORE TO MY HERITAGE, AS YOU SHALL SEE--

--AND SOON, WE ARE NEARLY THERE.

WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT, JON? I DON'T SEE ANYTHING BUT ICE AND SNOW!

JUST WHERE IS THIS PLACE OF YOURS, SON?

HERE.

HERE?!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

SLOW DOWN! WE'LL CRASH!

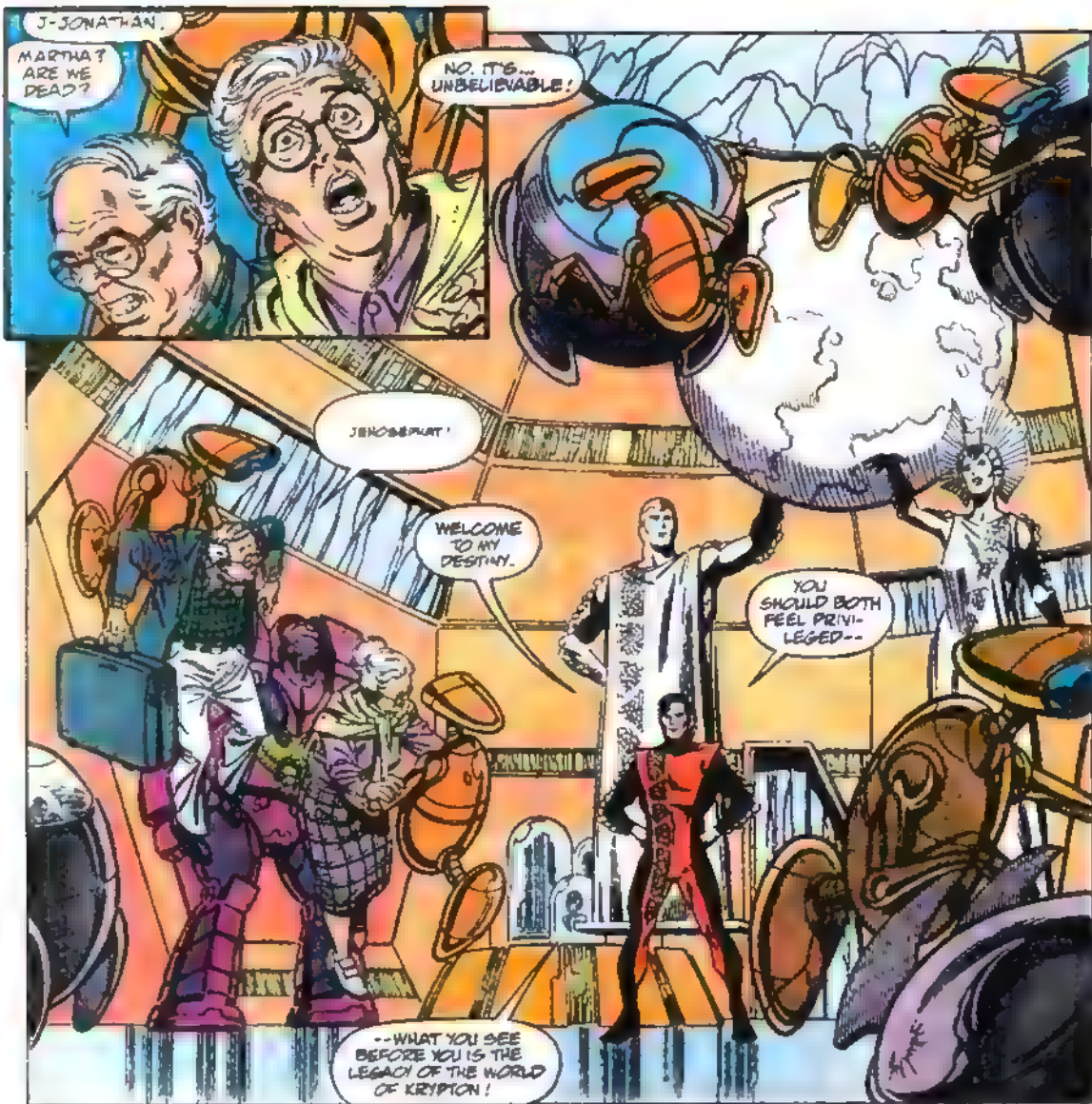
PREPARE YOURSELVES!

PANIC IS POINTLESS.

"CLARK!!"

AS THE UNLIKELY CRAFT HURTLES EARTHWARD, KAL-EL'S HEAT VISION REDUCES THE SURFACE ICE TO A LIQUID SLUSH...

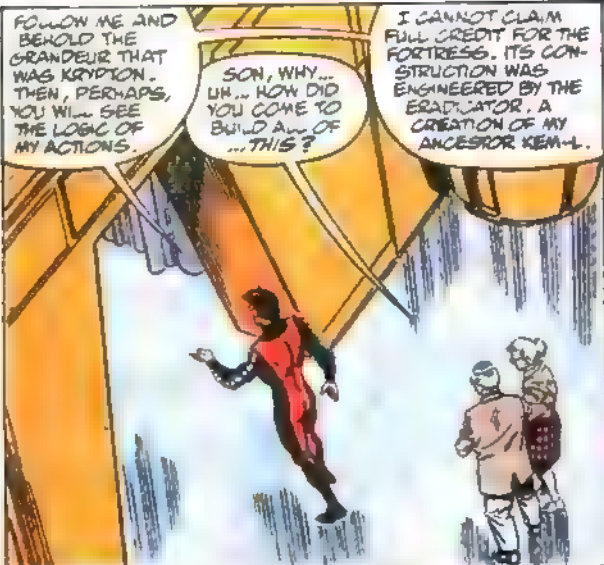
...AND THE SHIP PLUNGES ON!



FOLLOW ME AND BEHOLD THE GRANDEUR THAT WAS KRYPTON. THEN, PERHAPS, YOU WILL SEE THE LOGIC OF MY ACTIONS.

SON, WHY...
UH... HOW DID YOU COME TO BUILD ALL OF... THIS?

I CANNOT CLAIM FULL CREDIT FOR THE FORTRESS. ITS CONSTRUCTION WAS ENGINEERED BY THE ERADICATOR. A CREATION OF MY ANCESSOR KEM-L.



THE ERADICATOR?! ISN'T THAT THE GIZMO THAT MESS'D UP POOR MATRIX??



YES, MARTHA... BUT THE ERADICATOR'S POWER IS NO LONGER TO BE FEARED.

*AS SHOWN IN ISSUE #644.

"I NOW HAVE TOTAL COMPLETE CONTROL."



ARE YOU SURE?

IT'S... SOME SORT OF BIG HOLLOW... MARTHA.

OH MY STARS! WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME--?

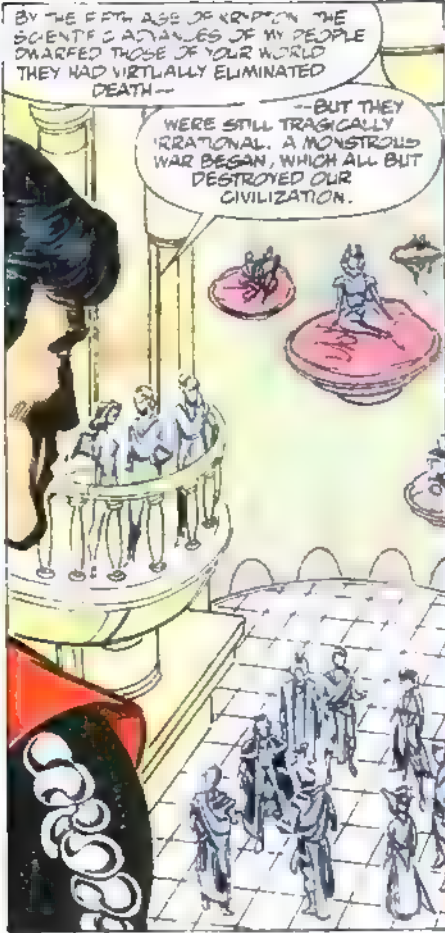
INDEED. THIS SCENE IS A RE CREATION OF THE EARLIEST RECORDED HISTORY OF MY RACE... SOME FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND OF YOUR YEARS AGO.

DON'T GET TOO CLOSE TO THE EDGE, JONATHAN!



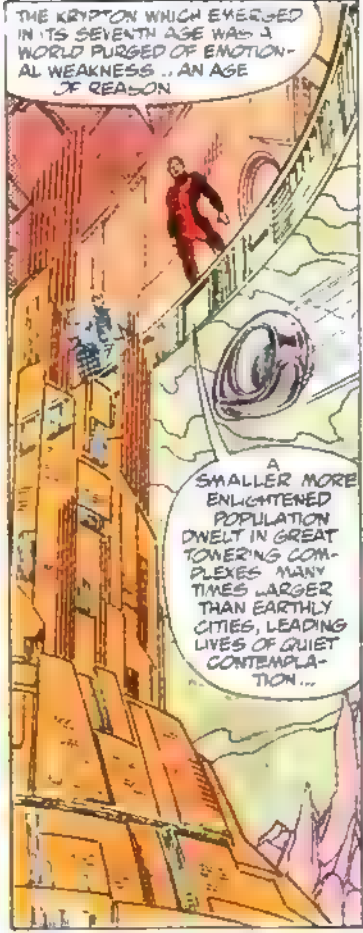
"LONG BEFORE THE TIME OF HOMO SAPIENS ON EARTH, KRYPTONIANS STROVE FOR DOMINION OF OUR WORLD, THEIR ALREADY BURGEONING TECHNOLOGY OUTPACING THEIR MASTERY OF SOCIAL ORDER."

"FROM THESE BAR-BAROUS BEGINNINGS AROSE A GREAT PEOPLE..."



BY THE FIFTH AGE OF KRYPTON THE SCIENTIFIC ADVANCES OF MY PEOPLE DWAFFED THOSE OF YOUR WORLD THEY HAD VIRTUALLY ELIMINATED DEATH--

--BUT THEY WERE STILL TRAGICALLY IRRATIONAL. A MONSTROUS WAR BEGAN, WHICH ALL BUT DESTROYED OUR CIVILIZATION.



THE KRYPTON WHICH EMERGED IN ITS SEVENTH AGE WAS A WORLD PURGED OF EMOTIONAL WEAKNESS... AN AGE OF REASON

A SMALLER MORE ENLIGHTENED POPULATION DWELT IN GREAT TOWERING COMPLEXES MANY TIMES LARGER THAN EARTHLY CITIES, LEADING LIVES OF QUIET CONTEMPLATION...



COMMUNING WITH THEIR PEERS CHIEFLY BY HOLOGRAPHIC TRANSMISSION. ACTUAL PHYSICAL CONTACT WAS RARE.

THIS WAS THE SOCIETY OF MY PARENTS...

...THE HEIGHT OF KRYPTONIAN CULTURE. SURELY, YOU NOW SEE WHY I MUST DEDICATE MY LIFE TO ITS CONTINUANCE?



NO, I DON'T SEE ANY SUCH THING! IF YOU ASK ME A MAN'D HAVE TO BE A DANG FOOL TO WANT TO LIVE THAT WAY!

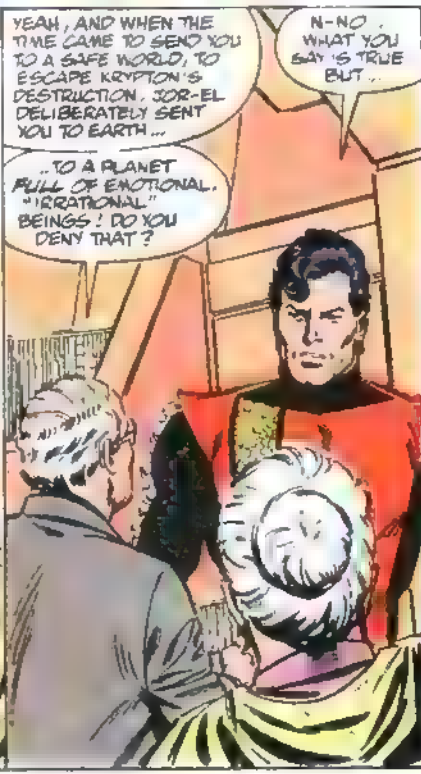
THEN BY YOUR STANDARDS, I AM A FOOL.

I HAD THOUGHT YOU POSSESSED ENOUGH REASON TO UNDERSTAND



BUT, CLAR, I MEAN KAL-EL, DIDN'T YOU ONCE TELL US THAT JOR-EL HIMSELF BELIEVED THAT THE KRYPTONIANS HAD LOST SOMETHING?

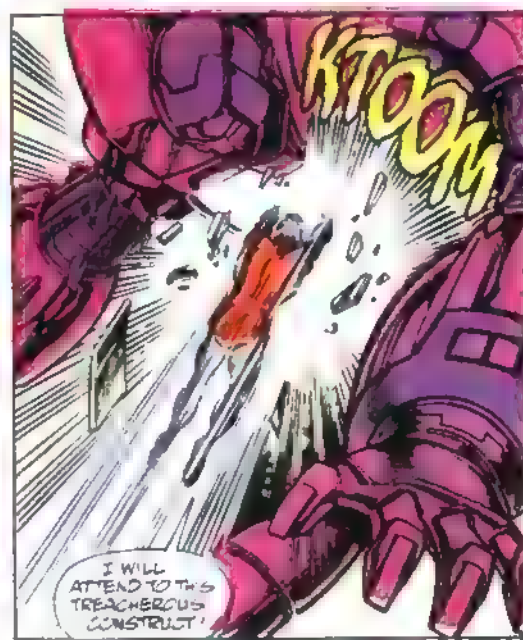
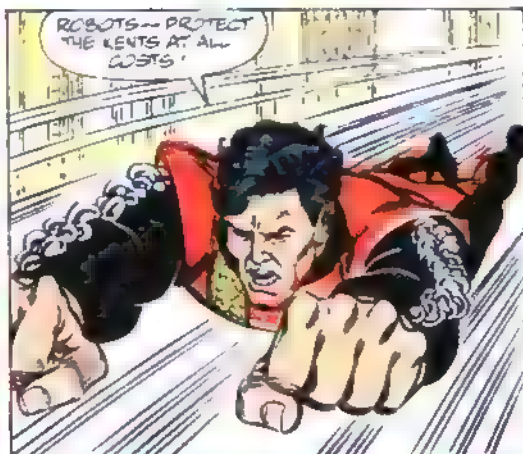
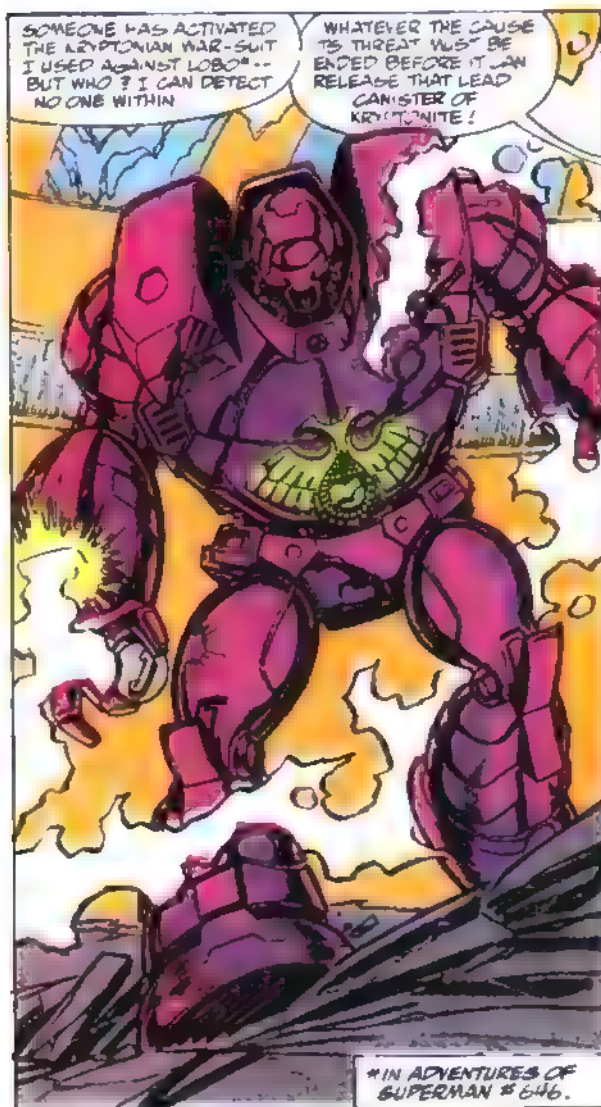
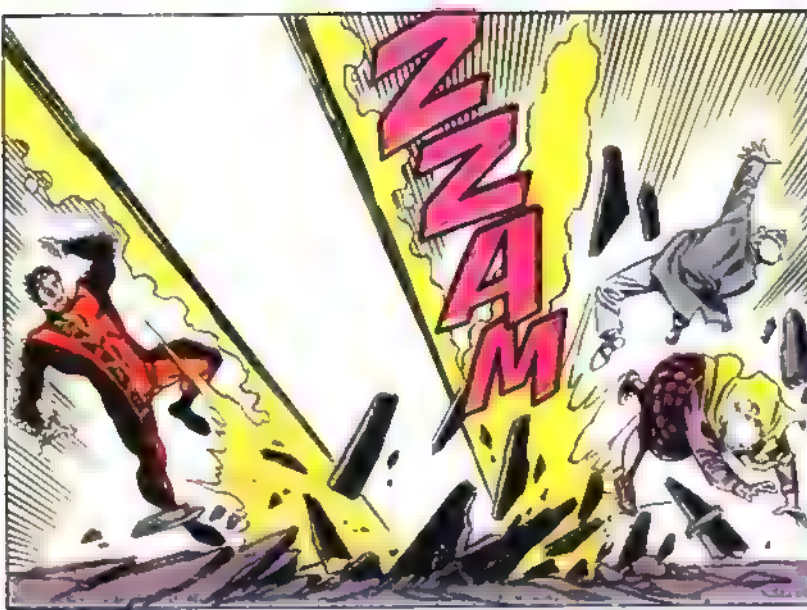
DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT HE HAD ADMITTED HIS LOVE FOR LARA? THAT'S EMOTIONAL!



YEAH, AND WHEN THE TIME CAME TO SEND YOU TO A SAFE WORLD, TO ESCAPE KRYPTON'S DESTRUCTION, JOR-EL DELIBERATELY SENT YOU TO EARTH...

...TO A PLANET FULL OF EMOTIONAL, "IRRATIONAL" BEINGS! DO YOU DENY THAT?

N-NO... WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE BUT...



JONATHAN!

IT'S ALL
RIGHT, MARTHA
...I THINK!
CLARK TOLD
EM TO PROTECT
US!

BUT HE SAID IT IN ENGLISH!
DID THEY UNDERSTAND
THAT?

THEY MUST HAVE: WHY
ELSE WOULD THEY
GATHER 'ROUND?

MIGHT AS
WELL ASK WHY
THAT THING
ATTACKED
US!

"DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT!
CLARK'LL TAKE CARE OF IT!"

"DID YOU SEE HOW HE
SPRANG TO THE RESCUE?
THAT'S STILL OUR BOY—
HE WON'T LET US DOWN!"

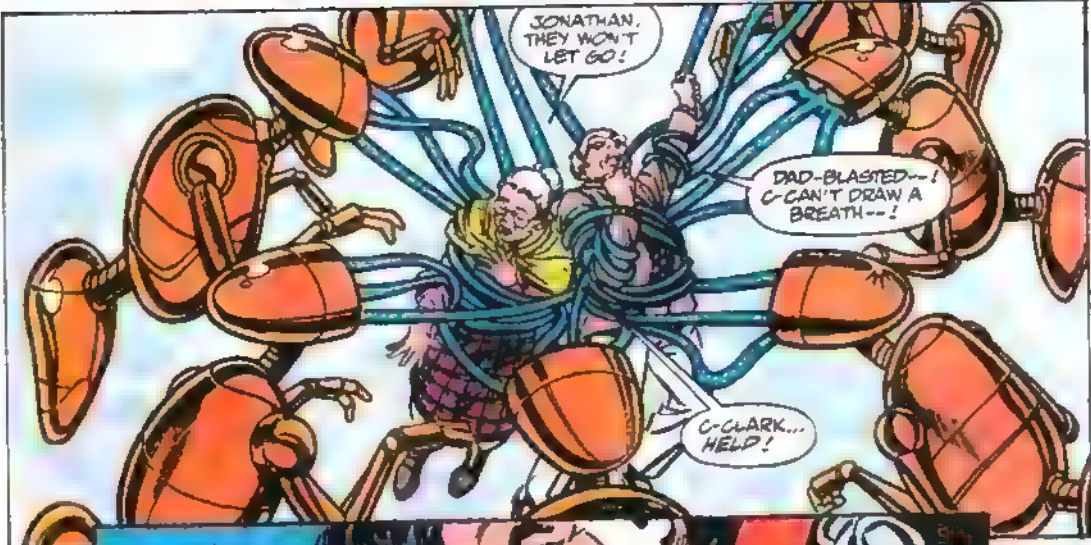
JON, HE'S BEEN
HURT! WHAT IF
THAT KRYPTONITE'S
GOTTEN LOOSE?

BACK OFF, YOU
BLASTED TIN
NURSEMAIDS! THE
BOY NEEDS
US!

ARRGHH!!

YES, PLEASE
LET US PASS! WE
WANT TO HELP—
ON!

PLINK



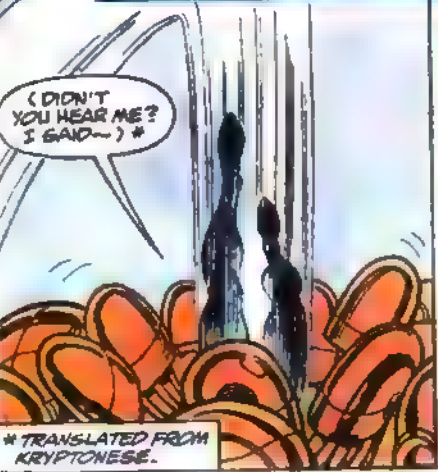
SONATHAN,
THEY WON'T
LET GO!

DAD-BLASTED---!
C-CAN'T DRAW A
BREATH---

C-CLARK...
HELP!

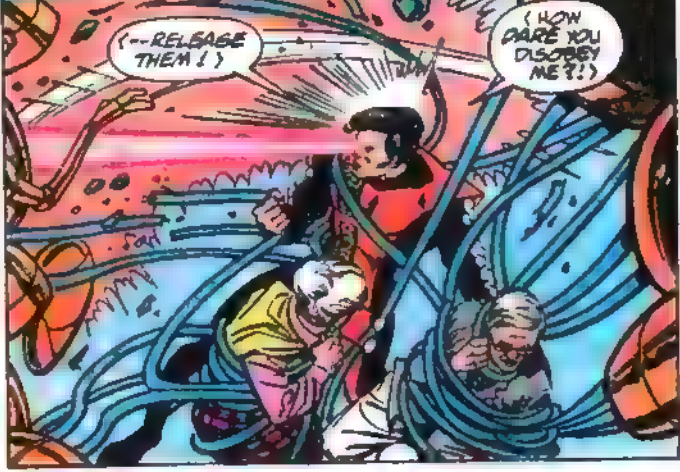
MA--!

MA--!!



(DIDN'T
YOU HEAR ME?
I SAID--)*

* TRANSLATED FROM
KRYPTONESE..



(--RELEASE
THEM!)

(HOW
DARE YOU
DISOBEY
ME?!)



YOU SHALL NOT
HARM THESE
PEOPLE!

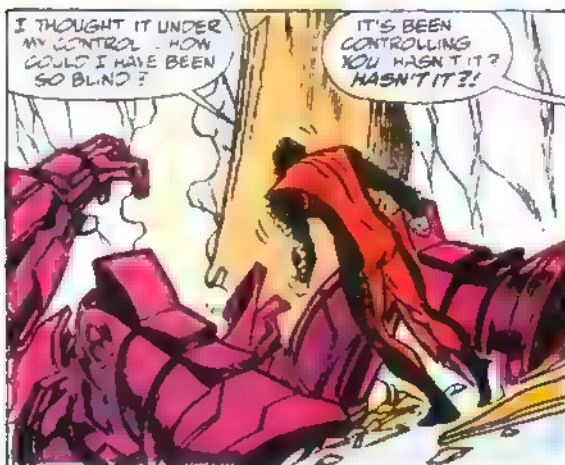
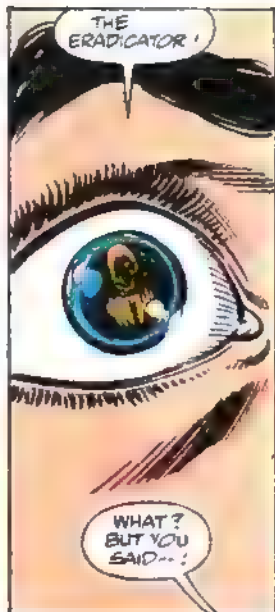
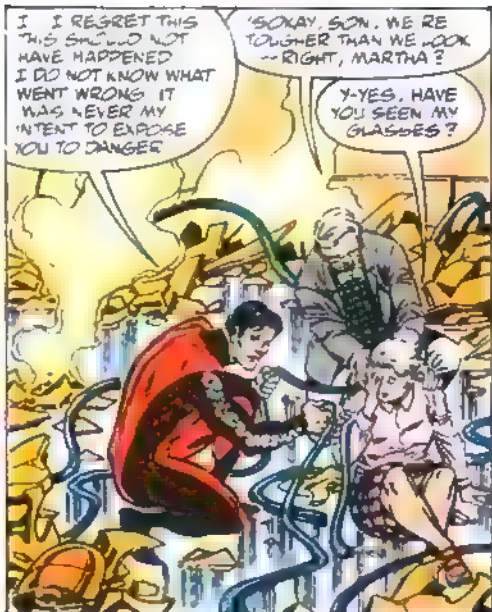


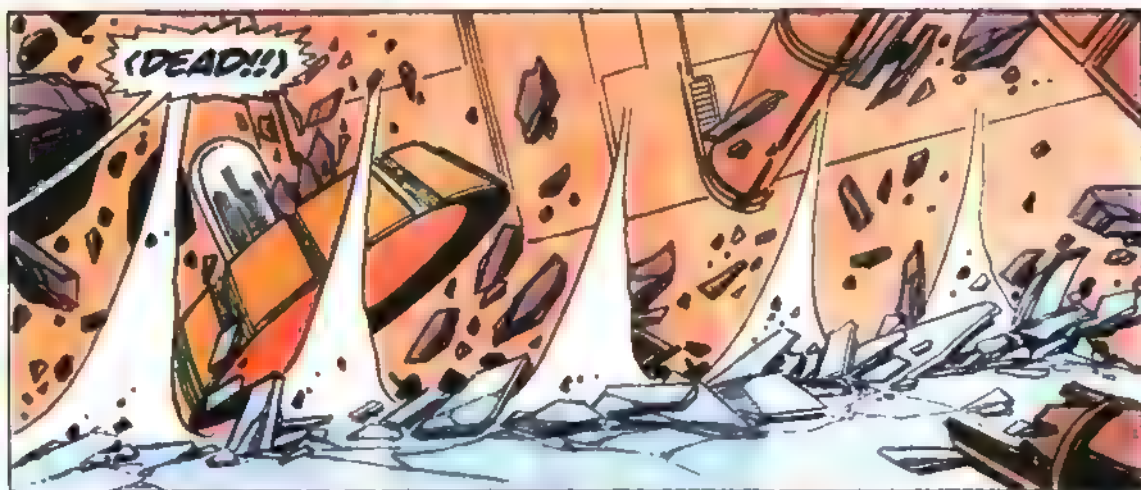
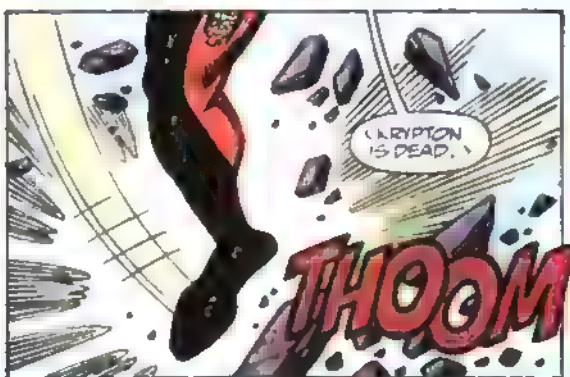
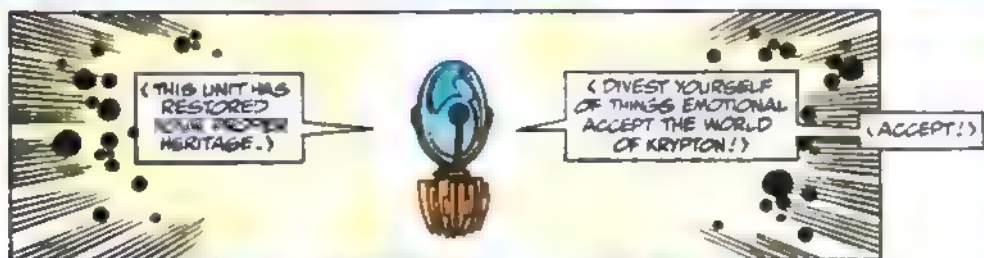
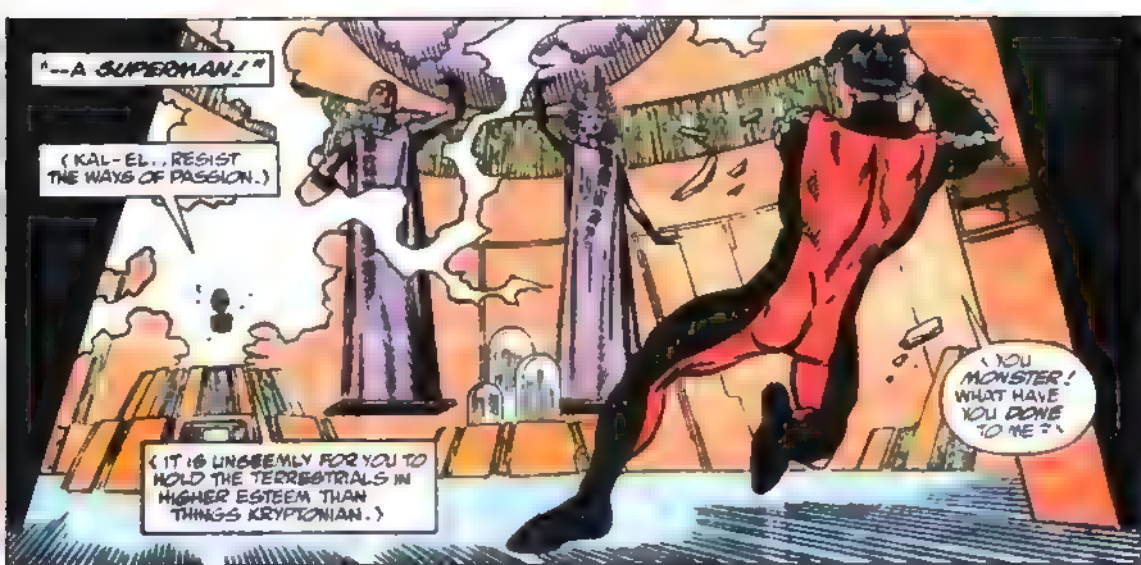
SQUEEE



I WILL
NOT ALLOW
IT!

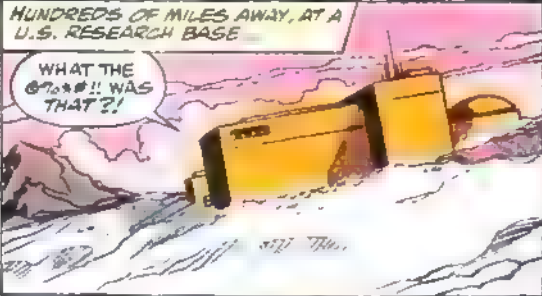




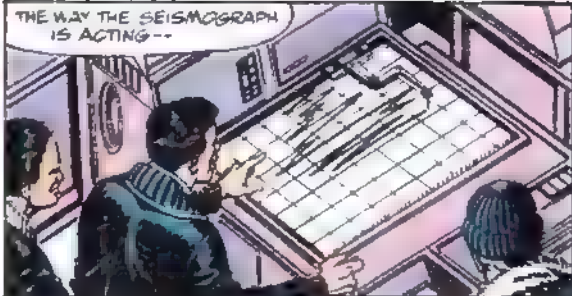


HUNDREDS OF MILES AWAY, AT A U.S. RESEARCH BASE

WHAT THE @%#! WAS THAT?!



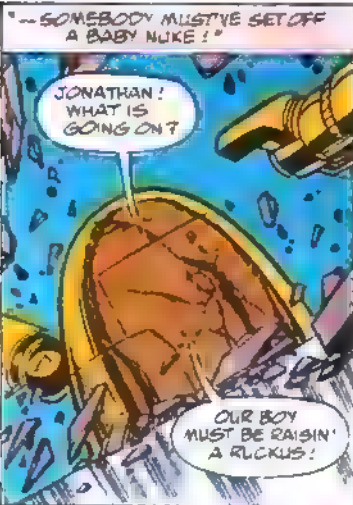
THE WAY THE SEISMOGRAPH IS ACTING--



"--SOMEBODY MUST'VE SET OFF A BABY NUKE!"

JONATHAN! WHAT IS GOING ON?

OUR BOY MUST BE RAISIN' A RUCKUS!



THAT SOLT PUT A GOOD-SIZED CRACK IN THIS EGG



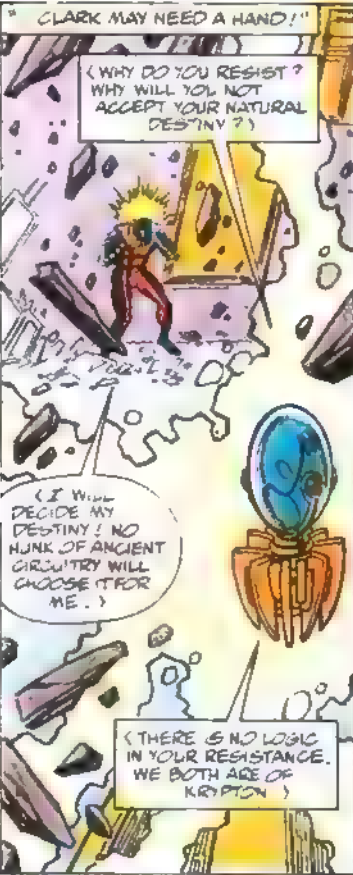
WHAT'RE YOL GOING TO DO?

DON'T KNOW BUT I'M NOT GONNA STAND AROUND IDLE...



"CLARK MAY NEED A HAND!"

(WHY DO YOU RESIST? WHY WILL YOU NOT ACCEPT YOUR NATURAL DESTINY?)



(I WILL DECIDE MY DESTINY! NO HUNK OF ANCIENT CIRCUITRY WILL CHOOSE IT FOR ME.)

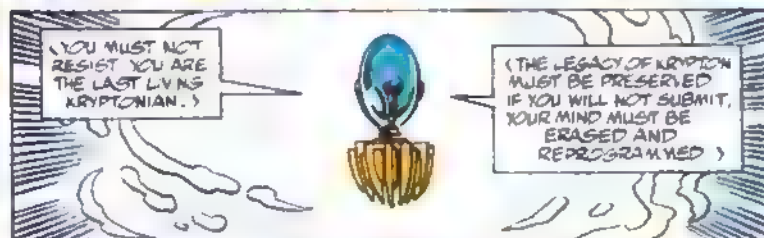
(THERE IS NO LOGIC IN YOUR RESISTANCE. WE BOTH ARE OF KRYPTON.)



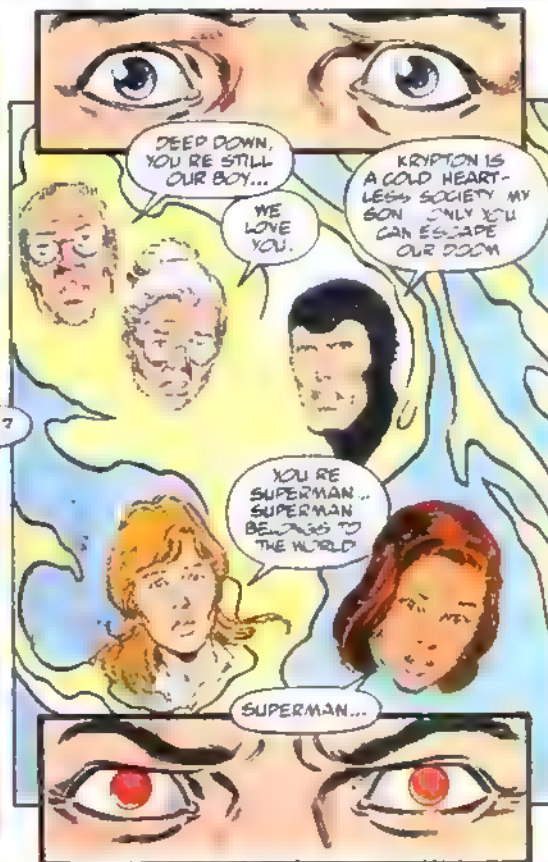
(YES BUT I WAS BORN ON EARTH! I WAS RAISED TO BELIEVE THAT I HAVE FREE WILL!)

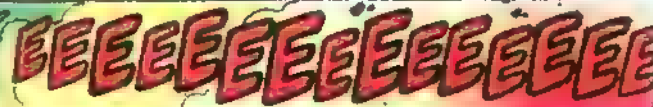
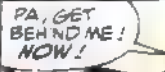


(SO MANY HAVE TRIED TO BEND MY WILL... DARKSEID AND AMAZING GRACE...)



(...INTERFERENCE...)







JONATHAN, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

YES, MARTHA... I BELIEVE WE BOTH ARE NOW.

CLARK--?

STAY BACK...



... PLEASE ! EVEN IN TATTERS, THIS CLOTHING MIGHT STILL HARBOR SOME DANGEROUS ENERGIES. I DON'T WANT YOU TWO HURT.



THEN, THE ERADICATOR--?

THIS TIME, ITS THREAT IS TRULY OVER...



... CRUSHED BENEATH THE OLD MEMORIES OF KRYPTON.

PA, I DON'T TRUST THIS SUIT... IS THERE ANYTHING IN YOUR GRIP THAT I COULD WEAR?



SURE IS ! WHEN WE SAW THAT DRAAGA FELLA ON TV WEARING YOUR OLD OUTFIT, YOUR MA PACKED THIS FOR YOU...

... JUST IN CASE !

THANK YOU...



... BOTH OF YOU !

EXCUSE ME NOW...

* ... I PROMISE YOU, I'LL BE RIGHT BACK ! *



THIS IS MY DESTINY... TO BE SUPERMAN. IT'S NOT THE EASIEST PATH IN LIFE, BUT IT'S THE ONE I'VE CHOSEN.

JUST KNOWING THAT THE CHOICE WAS MINE, MAKES ME FEEL FREE !



A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS, MARTHA.

OH, I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT RAISING CHILDREN YOU TRY YOUR BEST TO SET GOOD EXAMPLES FOR THEM...

... BUT YOU ALWAYS WORRY IF YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH TO KEEP THEM FROM LOSING THEIR BEARINGS.

WELL, YOU CAN STOP WORRYING.



A MOTHER NEVER STOPS WORRYING... BUT, YES...



"... HE'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT!"

A LUNGFUL OF AIR WILL ONLY LET ME GO A FEW MILLION MILES FROM EARTH, BUT THAT SHOULD BE FAR ENOUGH FOR MY PURPOSES.

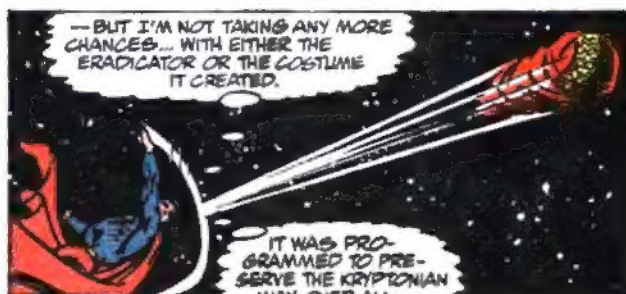
STRANGE... THE OLD CLERIC WHO GAVE ME THE ERADICATOR CALLED IT MY LEGACY... HE WANTED ME TO TAKE IT AND LEARN FROM IT.



WELL, CLERIC, IF I'VE LEARNED ANYTHING FROM IT, IT'S THAT I'M MORE OF AN EARTHMAN THAN I'LL EVER BE A KRYPTONIAN.

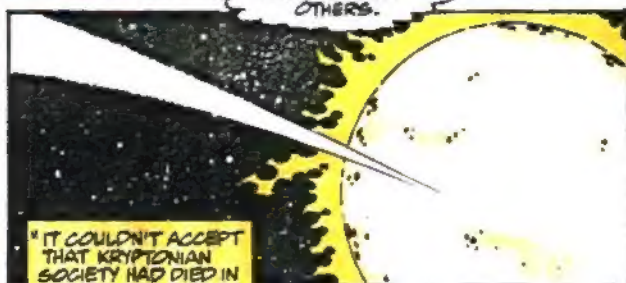
TOO BAD MY "INHERITANCE" COULDN'T UNDERSTAND THAT.

I INSPECTED EVERY LAST SHARD OF IT WITH MY MICROSCOPIC VISION, AND IT SEEMS HARMLESS.



— BUT I'M NOT TAKING ANY MORE CHANCES... WITH EITHER THE ERADICATOR OR THE COSTUME IT CREATED.

IT WAS PROGRAMMED TO PRESERVE THE KRYPTONIAN WAY OVER ALL OTHERS.



"IT COULDN'T ACCEPT THAT KRYPTONIAN SOCIETY HAD DIED IN SPIRIT LONG BEFORE IT HAD IN FACT...

"... OR THAT ITS SOLE SURVIVING SON HAD EMBRACED A BETTER WAY.

"THE ERADICATOR BELONGS TO A DEAD PAST, CLERIC. I HOPE THAT YOU'D AGREE.

"YOU ONCE SAID THAT KRYPTON WOULD LIVE ON AS LONG AS I ENDURED. WELL, I BELIEVE YOU WERE RIGHT!



"KRYPTON WILL LIVE ON THROUGH ME..."

"... BUT ONLY UNDER MY TERMS!"

END

RE:ACTION

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Dear Editor:

It seems that Brainiac is to blame for many of Superman's problems, although we've been led to believe otherwise. When Gangbuster was revealed to be the Man of Steel, we assumed that the execution of the "Kryptonian" villains had mentally taken its toll on our hero. But ACTION COMICS #647 manifests the manipulations of Brainiac by bringing Kal-El's dark side to the surface.

Similarly, in ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #460, Superman blames his sudden headache on the Eradicator. But could this not have been another attack by the recovering Brainiac? At the end of ADVENTURES #460, we jump to the conclusion that the Eradicator is responsible for Supes's memory lapse. But couldn't Brainiac be the real culprit? These are questions I hope will be resolved in the near future.

Now, getting back to ACTION #647, which prompted this letter: Roger Stern's writing really made this issue a success (although the Perez, Gammill, and Breeding art combination didn't hurt, either). Stern's "Brain Drain" had all the elements of a soon-to-be classic comic. The beginning dream/nightmare sequence cleared up already-mentioned assumptions as well as set the mood for the remainder of this book. Also, Stern gave us three villains in one issue! The confrontation between Superman and Lex Luthor was refreshing, while the team-up of Brainiac was frightening.

Thanks for a truly entertaining read.

Dan Wooten
121 Water Street
Ellettsville, IN 47429

Dear Mike:

ACTION COMICS #647 was the first issue of ACTION I have read for quite a while, and frankly, I was impressed.

The opening sequence provided a handy introduction for the new reader (like me), and unlike most flashback or recap scenes, which seem totally incongruous and upset the flow of the story, those in issue #647 actually formed part of the plot and carried the story forward. A lot of writers could learn from this...

I admit that the basic plot of two villains fighting each other isn't new, but the story at least had pacing and a welcome sense of humor, plus there was a valid reason for Brainiac to turn against Luthor.

I was particularly impressed with the idea of Brainiac turning Luthor's

machines against him—truly a modern-day nightmare, and a timely reminder of the potential danger of machines in the wrong hands.

I was genuinely entertained by this comic. Congratulations to all concerned.

Martin Simcox
84 Barnett Lane
Wordsley, Stourbridge
West Midlands, DY8 5PX
England

Dear Mike:

Aside from the very attractive cover, the enthralling writing, and some gorgeous artwork, there was really very little to justify publishing ACTION COMICS #647. In fact, I nearly didn't bother writing this letter, since there was so little that needed saying; however, since the Post Office needs work, I'll do my best...

Seriously, issue #647 was the most enjoyable issue since ACTION's return to monthly status. I have been looking forward to the Brainiac story for some time, and Roger Stern has ensured that the wait will have been well worth it. The involvement of Metallo came as something of a surprise, but a pleasant one. But I wonder if Brainiac will come out of this story line inhabiting an artificial body (in keeping with the Superman tradition) ... won't that make Metallo somewhat redundant? Unless ... no, you wouldn't, would you? Vril Dox in Metallo's body? Nahh! Still, it's fun to try to outguess Roger. But to be painfully honest, I don't have a Clu (I) what's going to happen next! (Sorry!)

Apart from the fascinating developments with Brainiac, Roger gave us a thrilling encounter between Supes and Luthor. I really love these meetings. Lex and Superman in a war of words and wits is a thousand times more satisfying than the "old" Luthor and Supes slugging it out in the skies over Metropolis. The reaction of the woman scientist to Superman's rescue on page 20 has me thinking: Wouldn't it be interesting if a sort of pro-Superman "underground" grew among Lex's employees, as a result of incidents like this one? How would Luthor handle something like that, hmmm?

Perez/Gammill/Breeding. Perez/Gammill/Breeding. Yep, Perez/Gammill/Breeding really rolls off the tongue, doesn't it? (And off the type-writer, too.) Certainly, this awesome threesome contributed some gorgeous visuals this month. In particular, I would like to mention that the battle between

Superman and the robots in Luthor's plant really reminded me of the Fleischer Superman cartoon with the mechanical men. This was one of the better action sequences I've seen in comics in a long time. And if this creative trio is to remain in service in the pages of ACTION COMICS, you won't get any complaints from this fan.

Dale Coe
56 Whitecross Road
Warrington, Cheshire WA5 1LR
England

Being compared to the classic Fleischer Studio cartoons of the 1940s is quite a compliment, Dale—thanks from all involved with ACTION!

And knowing how Lex treats those who "betray" him, it's a safe bet that any of his employees involved with an "underground" pro-Superman movement would no doubt end up underground—by about six feet or so.

Dear Mike:

One of the few complaints that I have with the three Superman books is the fascination they have with subplots and the even more maddening sub-subplots. They bother me, because they often take what seems an eternity to resolve themselves—and when they do, more often than not the reader has forgotten about them already. I refer specifically to the stories involving the Eradicator, the "changed" Jimmy Olsen, and, of course, the Brainiac story line.

So, imagine my joy upon reading ACTION #647—finally, some movement on the Brainiac story! And not only that, but action as well. Brainiac reawakens, and if that isn't enough, he takes over one of Luthor's bases and tries to exact revenge from his old enemy...

...all in one issue. I sincerely hope this is the shape of subplots to come.

Sean Twist
8-290 Springbank Drive
London, Ontario
Canada N6J 2Y9

Sean, we admit we took a long time to develop the Brainiac saga, but Milton Fine's story was multi-faceted and needed the time to be nurtured within these pages. You saw Superman gain control of the Eradicator in ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #461 (or did he?), and as for Jimmy's fate ... keep on reading!

Dear Mike:

"The Brainiac Trilogy," Part One—I've

been waiting for this one for a long time. I've trusted you from the beginning and you haven't yet disappointed me. And what an eye-catching cover on ACTION #647! Can I assume that you plan to turn Brainiac green?

The art was great, but will we be seeing Kerry Gammill draw solo again? He is practically my favorite artist.

I'm glad to see that the Brainiac/Luthor team-up has been abolished, but what's this? A Brainiac/Metallo team-up? Neat-o! Next time have a Brainiac/Mr. Mxyzptik team-up!

Superman seems to be spending a lot of time fighting with robots lately: first Turmoil, then the Kryptonian robots the Eradicator cooked up, then this issue's "Luthorbots," and next issue, Metallo; it must be hard on the knuckles.

Why don't you guys put Superman mini-posters in your books a couple of times? DETECTIVE COMICS did it with "The Mud Pack."

You are putting out great stuff. See you next month!

Ryan Lafferty
(No address given)

Superman mini-posters as giveaways, eh? Not a bad idea; we'll consider it.

Thanks for trusting us on the Brainiac story, Ryan (are you listening, Sean Twist?). And, as we've said before, Kerry Gammill's art will appear in our three Super-series from time to time, so keep your eyes peeled (and speaking of eyes, our next reader is hot over heat vision...

Re: Action:

Well, isn't the "Luthor/Brainiac Team (?) stirring up a storm of trouble for the Man of Steel? Vil Dox is definitely a force to be reckoned with and, just to prove it, while taken under Luthor's "care" and appearing to be incapacitated, he has overtaken the doctor in charge with his mental might and, subsequently, the rest of the medical staff on the premises, begun wreaking havoc on Luthor in his new multi-billion dollar fully automated armament factory; in turn indirectly combatting Superman himself who, having tracked down Luthor in Houston, suddenly ends up protecting the man (because of some inherent heroic nature unfathomable to either villain; successfully evading the watchful eye of Luthor, if only for the moment; recruiting the strange Metallo as a lackey; and causing as much mayhem in general as possible) And what really started the ball rolling was the revelation that Brainiac was a major factor in that double (triple?) life of Clark's that made him decide to leave Earth indefinitely. Talk about nightmares! (And good, of Supes thought Brainiac was dead...)

All that in ACTION COMICS #647, for only 75¢! I must say that you have piqued my curiosity ever since the introduction of the post-Crisis Brainiac, and now we finally get to see what character has emerged from the collective brainstorming of your excellent creators.

Roger Stern was meant to write for

Superman. (You're extremely talented, Roger. I love your work on STARMAN, as well as—ahem—the ill-fated POWER OF THE ATOM.)

Glenn Whitmore has done an aesthetically pleasing job since Tom Ziuko and Petra Scotese colored a different incarnation of ACTION. I especially liked the color choices for pages 1, 4, and 5. (Don't George and Kerry set up the perfect panel art for coloring?)

And, I have to say, Bill Oakley does a crisp, solid, good job of lettering. Let's hang on to this guy, too.

And, ye editor: Your team produces the consistently best books on the shelves. Things move along at just the right pace—everything seems fresh! I anxiously look forward to whatever's next!

The entire supporting cast in the three "S" books has been well defined and explored. I would, however, like to see more of Lana Lang. I know things have been crazy for Superman lately, but Lana has played a very important part in Clark's life. Indeed, she is one of the few people he has shared his secret with. (Think about it: Clark has only shared his secret with Ma and Pa Kent, Lana, and Princess Diana. If I recall correctly, Batman deduced his identity independently.) Will Lana be coming to Metropolis soon (hint, hint)?

So ... will the Man of Steel triumph over the diabolical machinations of the alien "Brainiac"? You can bet I'll be tuned in next issue!

Lana Lang is a character too important to Clark to be absent from these pages for too long ... so keep reading. (Incidentally, Lana—albeit not exactly the same Lana from our Superman titles—is a regular cast member of our new SUPERBOY comic book, based on the smash TV show. The second issue should still be on the stands, if you're lucky!)

Christopher King
26 Nichols Street, #6
Lewiston, ME 04240

Our creative team thanks you for the kind words, Chris.

Dear ACTION Crew:

Hurray for Superman! I am so pleased with all three of your Superman titles that I just had to write. It's great to see you bringing back characters like Brainiac and Metallo.

In ACTION #647, I was pleased to finally see your artists drawing a red beam for heat vision rather than just showing Superman's eyes light up. The red beam adds a nice touch to an already awesome comic.

By the way, is there any chance of having Superman team up with anyone? The Justice League or Wonder Woman, perhaps?

Ari Shapiro
345 West 42nd Street
Miami Beach, FL 33140

The Man of Steel raced Flash in last month's ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN, Ari ... we also saw the rest of the Justice League here last month—hey,

cameos count—and he's teaming up with a certain Darknight Detective very soon here in our Super-Titles and in WORLD'S FINEST, a Prestige Format mini-series written by Dave Gibbons, pencilled by Steve Rude, and inked by Karl Kesell

Dear Mike:

Before ACTION COMICS #647, the Brainiac story line had been reduced to having as much life in it as Milton Fine's body. I was not thrilled about the upcoming "Brainiac Trilogy."

But after reading "Brain Drain," I've got to say you guys have done it again! You have made an interesting story—one that I look forward to reading.

Melissa Page
236 New Salem Loop
Nortonville, KY 42442

Dear DC:

Wow! Totally awesome (and all that). I just picked up ACTION COMICS #647. From the cover, I could tell that this one would be an absolute winner! The artwork (this is why they call it "art") was just—well, it blew me away. Thanks, George, Kerry, and Brett!

I really enjoyed seeing the familiar Houston skyline on page 14, since I live in Houston. In fact, after I read ACTION I ran right out, rented a plane, and flew around downtown just so I could say "I flew where Superman flew!" (The city management wasn't too thrilled.)

Well, I've gotta fly ... er, go. Keep up the good work. See y'all!

James Pharaon
14209 Briarsage Court
Houston, TX 77077

You rented a plane just to follow Superman's flight path? Just don't get any bright ideas the next time the Man of Steel decides to go into outer space again!

—Michael Eury

NEXT: in SUPERMAN #43 ... the Krypton Man is gone—pww it's time to meet the Kryptonite Man! Jerry Ordway and Dennis Janke make with the introductions in just two weeks!

THEN: in ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #466 ... the crew of the space shuttle Excalibur runs into some radioactive trouble ... and even the Man of Steel's super-heroic abilities can't help them now! Dan Jurgens and guest-inker Dick Giordano (remember him from MAN OF STEEL?) do the honors in three weeks!

AND VERY SOON THEREAFTER: in ACTION COMICS #653 Amanda McCoy finally confronts Clark Kent with the fact that she knows his secret ... at the same time she tells him she's taken Luthor's Kryptonite ring. Talk about bad timing! Roger Stern and Brett Breeding officially welcome Bob McLeod to the Superman Team in four weeks!

This issue's cover was pencilled and inked by George Perez and colored by Brett Breeding.